



MontCAS
Montana Comprehensive Assessment
System
April 2008 Newsletter

**It's a good time to register for the OPI
Statewide Assessment Conference.**



- April 28 and 29, Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena
- The early registration fee of \$60 has been extended until April 9.
- Conference Highlights



Keynote speakers each morning

Monday, April 28: Dr. Jim Popham

Tuesday, April 29: Dr. Scott Marion



A variety of sessions will be presented by Montana educators, other recognized experts, and panels on the following topics and more:

- Writing and Formative Assessment
- Data Analysis and **MARS** (the new/improved *iAnalyze*)
- MontCAS Assessments
 - How to Include All Students in MontCAS
 - Learning from the CRT-Alternate: Administration and Reports
 - Universal Design for Assessment: What Tomorrow Will Bring
 - CRT Test Taking Strategies for students with Limited English Proficiency
 - English Language Proficiency (ELP)
- Achievement in Montana (AIM)
- Effectiveness Reports and Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plans (5YCEP)
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Highlighted Event

Focus groups will discuss future directions for Montana statewide assessment.

- Afternoon sessions on April 28 include two moderated focus groups which will discuss future directions for statewide assessment initiatives.
- The ideas from these groups will be incorporated in a survey of Montana educators in September 2008. This is an opportunity for Montana educators to consider several ideas which may include formative, local, and performance assessments and the next generation of the CRT. Advance registration for a focus group session is required.
- Please contact Canon Luerkens at OPI to register for a focus group once you have registered for the conference: cluerkens@mt.gov or 406-444-5643.

Conference Details:

- <http://www.opi.mt.gov/AssessConf/Index.html>
- April 28 and 29, Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena
- Registration fee will be \$70 on April 10. Refunds for registration must be requested in writing and received by April 14, 2008. Please contact Karen Richem, krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-0748
 - The block of rooms at the Red Lion Colonial is full; however blocks of rooms at the following hotels have been reserved for participants at the conference. Be sure to tell them you are attending the OPI Assessment Conference.
 - GUESTHOUSE Inn and Suites: 406-443-2300
 - DAYS INN: 406-442-3280

2008-2009 MontCAS Testing Windows

October 21 – November 21, 2008	English Language Proficiency (ELP) Grades K-12.
January - March 2009	NAEP, Grades 4 and 8, Reading and Math.
February 10 – March 25, 2009	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math, Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science.
March 2 – March 25, 2009	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math, Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science.

MontCAS CRT and CRT-ALT

2008 CRT and CRT-Alternate Testing Complete



Congratulations on the successful administration of the 2008 CRT and the CRT-Alternate. Your professionalism and commitment show.

Measured Progress has received testing materials in good order and on time.

Congratulations to Grass Range and Roy for being the first systems to return materials to Measured Progress.

← Rhonda Zobrak, principal of Roosevelt Elementary School in Great Falls, points out the "Quiet Zone."

MARS: New Look, New Name, and Training for *iAnalyze*

iAnalyze, the Measured Progress online reporting tool has been improved and streamlined for the 2008 CRT and CRT-Alternate test results. The new name is **MARS** (Montana Analysis and Reporting System).

MARS was previewed at the OPI Test Administration Conference in February. PowerPoint presentations, a User Guide, training on the program the Statewide Assessment Conference April 28 and 29, and OPI provided training will be offered.

A form to request OPI training is online:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/06TrainRqst.pdf>

If your system is interested in OPI-provided training, please print the form and fax it to Karen Richem, 406-444-0743.



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MARS 2008 Schedule

April 7, 2008	Schools may begin scheduling OPI provided training. A form to request training is online: http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/06TrainRqst.pdf If your system is interested in OPI provided training, please print the form and fax it to Karen Richem, 406-444-0743.
April 28 and 29, 2008	Two training sessions will be presented at the Statewide Assessment Conference.
April 30, 2008	Training PowerPoint will be posted online.
May 7, 2008	<i>User Guide</i> will be posted online.
May 13, 2008	Passwords and print copy of the <i>User Guide</i> will be mailed to System Test Coordinators.
June 2, 2008	Reading and Math results on MARS .

CRT and CRT-Alternate 2008 Report Schedule

June 2, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary Reports for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate Reading and Math Tests will be posted online on MARS. Reports include Roster and Item Level Report, School Summary Report, System Summary Report and System Roster data file. ○ 2008 Report Interpretive Guide will be posted online. ○ Released items from the 2008 CRT will be posted online.
June 2-10, 2008	<p>Schools and systems review online summary reports and contact OPI with questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Karen Richem: krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-0748 ○ Judy Snow: jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444-3656
September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parent reports, labels, and print copies of 2008 Report Interpretive Guide will be mailed to System Test Coordinators. These reports will include reading, math, and science results ○ Summary Reports for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate Science Tests will be posted online on MARS. Reports include: Roster and Item Level Report, School Summary Report, System Summary Report and System Roster data file.

Participation in CRT and CRT-Alternate Test Development



Dear Montana Educators,

Thank you to the many qualified Montana educators who have registered to participate in the test development activities listed in the table below. Educators are still needed for some of the important CRT and CRT-Alternate test development activities. The activities are listed in the table that follows this information.

Lodging is provided for participants living 90 miles away from Helena. In addition, mileage, meals not provided during the sessions, and substitute pay are reimbursed. Renewal units are also available. The participation form is online <http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/Forms/AppParticipate.pdf>

Please indicate on the form your preferred session and fax the completed form to Judy Snow, 406-444-0743. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you.

CRT and CRT-Alternate Test Development Activities

Dates	Test Development Activity	Openings
May 13-14, 2008, Helena	Item Review, Reading, Math, and Science	CRT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading and Math educators in the following grade spans: 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, and 10 Science educators for each of the following grades: 4, 8, and 10
May 15, 2008, Helena	Bias Review	CRT Reading, Math, and Science educators
June 10 -12, 2008, Helena	Science CRT and CRT-Alternate Standard Setting	CRT Science educators for each of the following grades: 4, 8, and 10 CRT-Alternate Science and Special Education educators for each of the following grades: 4, 8, and 10
July 22-23, 2008, Helena	CRT Item Selection Review, Reading and Math, grades 3-8 and 10 and Science, grades 4, 8, and 10	CRT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading and Math educators for each content in the following grade spans: 3-6 and 7-10. Science educators in each of the following grades: 4, 8, and 10.

MontCAS English Language Proficiency (ELP) Test

Reports

The Office of Public Instruction is pleased to announce that the results from the 2007-08 ELP are complete and should have been received by System Test Coordinators around March 5, 2008.

Reports include System Summary Report, School Summary Reports, School Roster Reports, Individual Student Reports, Parent Reports, Student Labels, and Growth Reports (only for grades with 10 or more tested students). In addition, the *Score Reports Interpretation Guide* (SRIG) has been posted to the OPI website at:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PUB/PDF/Assessment/ELP/07_08ELPScoreRptsInterpGuide.pdf

A copy of the *Guide* has also been mailed to systems with the reports. We encourage you to review the *Guide* at your convenience.

2008-2009 English Language Proficiency Materials and Testing Schedule

Date	Test Coordinator Checklist
August 1, 2008	Questar emails System Test Coordinators with information about ordering Level 1 (beginner form), Braille, and Large Print (LP) test forms.
August 4-22, 2008	System Test Coordinators fax orders for Level 1, Braille, or Large Print (LP) forms to Questar: 866-460-9778.
September 4, 2008	Questar ships test administration training materials to System Test Coordinators
September 12 – October 18, 2008	System Test Coordinators provide training for test administrators (examiners). If your system would like OPI to provide training, please contact Karen Richem, krichem@mt.gov or 406-444-0748
October 6, 2008	Questar ships testing materials to System Test Coordinators
October 20 – November 21, 2008	English Language Proficiency (ELP) Testing Window
December 5, 2008	Deadline for systems to ship testing materials to Questar
February 2009	Questar ships reports to System Test Coordinators.

OPI Assessment Contacts

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- + Karen Richem, Assessment Specialist, krichem@mt.gov, 406-444-0748
- + Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, jsnow@mt.gov, 406-444-3656
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